

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending in the referenced application. Claims 1, 5, 14-15, 18, and 22 have been amended without introducing any new matter. Claims 2, 6, 19, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 31-35 have been added. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-22, and 24-35 remain pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11-14, 17, 18, 20-22, 25, 28, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, European Patent Application No. EP 0939360 A2 ("Okada") and further in view of Schimke et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0174197 ("Schimke"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 as amended sets forth:

a *serial-to-parallel converter*, said serial-to-parallel converter being within said disk drive housing and coupled to said ATA disk drive coupling element, wherein said serial-to-parallel converter is capable of receiving a set of serial ATA disk drive signals and emitting a set of parallel ATA disk drive signals.

(Claim 1 as amended; emphasis added)

In contrast, none of the cited references teaches a serial-to-parallel converter as claimed. As stated in the Office Action, Okada and Schimke fail to teach an apparatus including a serial-to-parallel converter (Office Action, p. 4, last paragraph). Moreover, the other cited reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,742, 068 to Gallagher et al. ("Gallagher"), also fails to teach a serial-to-parallel converter as claimed.

According to Gallagher, a server interconnect printed circuit board 68 contains an **Enhanced Parallel Port** (EPP) which allows the motherboard 67 to gather vital product data and other configuration information, enables the battery backup functions, solicits on exceptional system conditions, signals the control station via the control bus, and accesses other system interfaces; and a **Legacy Parallel Port** (LGP) that interfaces the control station to the COMM board which contains other information/control about the system's configuration and environment (Gallagher, col. 10, lines 1-27). In sum, Gallagher merely mentions two parallel ports. Gallagher does not disclose, suggest, or imply any serial-to-parallel converter being within a disk drive housing, much less being used as recited in claim 1.

Since none of Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher, alone or in combination, teaches every limitation of claim 1 as amended, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 5, 14, 18, and 22 are patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 8, 17, 20-22, and 25 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 5, 14, 18, and 22, respectively. Thus, claims 4, 8, 17, 20-22, and 25 are patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13 and 28-29 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 9 and 26, respectively. For the reason discussed below with respect to claims 9 and 26, claims 11-13 and 28-29 are patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada and Schimke and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,742, 068 to Gallagher et al. ("Gallagher"). Claims 2, 6, 15, 19, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the remaining claims.

For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 9 and 26 are patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 7, 10-13, 15-16, 20, 24, and 27 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 5, 9, 14, 18, 22, and 26, respectively. Thus, claims 3, 7, 10, 15-16, 20, 24, and 27 are patentable over Okada, Schimke, and Gallagher. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims 31-35

New claims 31-35 have been added without introducing any new matter. Independent claim 31 sets forth "a serial-to-parallel converter coupled to the adaptor to receive a set of serial ATA disk drive signals and to emit a set of parallel ATA disk drive signals." For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1, none of the art of record teaches the serial-to-parallel converter as claimed. For at least this reason, claim 31 is patentable over the art of record. Claims 32-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 31, and thus, are also patentable over the art of record for the reason discussed above. Allowance of claims 31-35 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


For at least the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner perceives any further obstacle to allowing the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Chui-kiu Teresa Wong
Reg. No. 48,042
Attorney for Applicants

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300
Fax (408) 720-8383